

Please pass this act (SB 761), which will provide serious financial relief to candidates who aren't independently wealthy. We need to do all we can to break down barriers to allow working parents to run for office. This is important for gender equity, and, more broadly, for all parents of young children. If we have learned nothing else in the past year, we have learned that our culture does not do nearly enough to support women and families--let us do what we can to make appropriate structural changes to improve our culture. Having greater diversity in elected officials may allow our lawmakers to better take into consideration the needs of disenfranchised groups, and having representatives who truly represent the diversity of our populace is also incredibly meaningful for our youth. Young women should have equal opportunities to serve in public office. This bill is an important step as we work towards getting there.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Laura LaVelle